

REMARKS

Applicant hereby elects, without traverse, the invention defined in claims 15 to 28 (Examiner's Group II). Accordingly, claims 1 to 14 and 29 to 32 have been canceled as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Further, the applicant elects the system species of Figures 1 to 5, the prosthesis subspecies of Figure 7B, and the attachment/fastener subspecies of Figure 8B. Applicant believes the subspecies attachment/fasteners combinations of Figures 18; 19; 20; and 21 and the subspecies attachment elements of Figures 17A; 17B; 17C; and 17D (there is no Figure 17E) are associated with the non-elected system species of Figures 11 to 15.

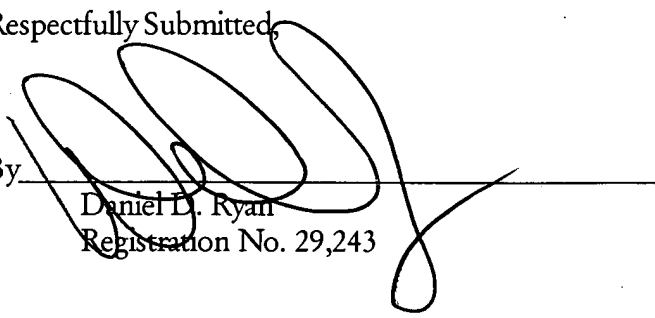
Applicant believes that claim 15 is generic to the system species of Figures 1 to 5 and 11 to 15, as well as the prosthesis subspecies of Figures 7A and 7B. Further, applicant believes that claims 16; 18; 21; 22; 23; and 28 read on the additionally elected prosthesis subspecies of Figure 7B and the attachment/fastener subspecies of Figure 8B.

Applicant has withdrawn claims 17; 19; 20; 24; 25; 26; and 27 as being directed to non-elected species/subspecies, but applicant preserves the right to reinstate one or more of these claims should a claim generic to the system species of Figures 1 to 5 and 11 to 15 and the prosthesis subspecies of Figures 7A and 7B be allowed.

Original claims 15; 16; 18; 21; 22; 23; and 28 remain in the application for examination. Among these, claim 15 is the sole independent system claim.

Respectfully Submitted,

By


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